

## **CLAIMS**

### **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 5      1. A method comprising:  
              determining whether a current fill rate of a container is within a threshold of a  
              slowest fill rate of the container.
  
- 10     2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
              when the determining is true, switching from the container to a new container.
  
- 15     3. The method of claim 2, wherein the switching further comprises:  
              switching journaling of changes to a database from the container to the new  
              container.
  
- 20     4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
              determining the slowest fill rate from a plurality of fill rates for the container over  
              a plurality of time periods.
  
- 25     5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:  
              periodically determining each of the plurality of fill rates.
  
- 30     6. An apparatus comprising:  
              means for calculating a plurality of fill rates of a container for a respective  
              plurality of time periods;  
              means for calculating a slowest fill rate of the plurality of fill rates; and  
              means for determining whether a current fill rate of the container is within a fill-  
              rate threshold of the slowest fill rate.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising:

means for switching an application from filling the container to filling a new container when the means for determining is true.

5 8. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the means for determining further comprises:

means for determining whether a current size of the container is between a soft threshold and a hard threshold.

9. The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising:

10 means for switching an application from filling the container to filling a new container when a current size of the container exceeds a hard threshold.

10. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the means for switching further comprises:

means for switching journaling of changes to a database from the container to the  
15 new container.

11. A signal-bearing medium encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed comprise:

20 calculating a plurality of fill rates of a container for a respective plurality of time periods;

calculating a slowest fill rate of at least a portion of the plurality of fill rates; and  
determining whether a current fill rate of the container is within a fill-rate threshold of the slowest fill rate and whether a current size of the container is between a soft threshold and a hard threshold.

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12. The signal-bearing medium of claim 11, further comprising:

switching an application from filling the container to filling a new container when the determining is true.

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13. The signal-bearing medium of claim 11, further comprising:

switching an application from filling the container to filling a new container when the current size of the container exceeds the hard threshold.

5 14. The signal-bearing medium of claim 11, further comprising:

refraining from switching an application from filling the container to filling a new container when the determining is false.

15. The signal-bearing medium of claim 12, further comprising:

10 receiving the fill-rate threshold from the application.

16. A electronic device comprising:

a processor; and

a storage device encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when

15 executed on the processor comprise:

calculating a plurality of fill rates of a first container for a respective plurality of time periods,

calculating a slowest fill rate of at least a portion of the plurality of fill rates,

20 determining whether a current fill rate of the first container is within a fill-rate threshold of the slowest fill rate and whether a current size of the first container is between a soft threshold and a hard threshold, and

switching an application from filling the first container to filling a second container when the determining is true.

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17. The electronic device of claim 16, wherein the instructions further comprise:

deciding whether a current size of the first container exceeds the hard threshold.

18. The electronic device of claim 17, wherein the instructions further comprise:

30 switching the application from filling the first container to filling a second container when the deciding is true.

19. The electronic device of claim 16, wherein the instructions further comprise:  
receiving the fill-rate threshold from the application.
- 5    20. The electronic device of claim 16, wherein the instructions further comprise:  
receiving the hard threshold and the soft threshold from the application.